

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 200875  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CA-01 ICA-11 PA-01 SIG-03  
/040 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:JDAVIDOW:DH  
APPROVED BY AF:DPETTERSON  
AF/S:HKAISER  
CA:LWAUCHOPE (SUBS)  
-----012746 091355Z /47

P R 091307Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY  
INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200875

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMERICAN RUGBY TEAM TO RHODESIA

1. AMERICAN RUGBY TEAM CURRENTLY TOURING SOUTH AFRICA  
INTENDS TO PLAY ONE GAME IN RHODESIA ON OR ABOUT AUGUST  
11. ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS OF U.S. RUGBY UNION, TEAM WOULD  
FLY INTO RHODESIA UPON COMPLETION OF SOUTH AFRICA TOUR  
FOR AFTERNOON GAME AND LEAVE SAME EVENING FOR LONDON.

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2. IF QUESTIONED BY PRESS OR OTHERS ABOUT TEAM'S  
VISIT TO RHODESIA POST SHOULD RESPOND THAT:

-- TEAM HAS NO ASSOCIATION WITH AND RECEIVES NO SUPPORT  
FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT;

-- USG OFFICIALS DISCOURAGED TEAM FROM TRAVELING

TO RHODESIA; AND

-- THAT THIS CONSISTENT WITH USG POLICY WHICH SINCE MAY 1976 HAS DISCOURAGED AMERICAN TRAVEL TO RHODESIA, OWING TO UNSETTLED CONDITIONS THERE AND TO THE LACK OF US DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR REPRESENTATION, WHICH PRECLUDES THE ASSISTANCE NORMALLY FURNISHED BY THE USG TO ITS CITIZENS ABROAD.

3. IF QUESTIONED FURTHER YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT WHILE TRAVEL TO RHODESIA BY U.S. CITIZENS IS DISCOURAGED, IT IS NOT PROHIBITED UNDER U.S. LAW.

4. FYI: WE UNDERSTAND FROM OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH U.S. RUGBY OFFICIALS THAT, AS OF SEVERAL DAYS AGO, TRIP TO RHODESIA WAS STILL TENTATIVE. TEAM MEMBERS ARE PARTICULARLY APPREHENSIVE OVER QUESTION OF THEIR PERSONAL SECURITY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT TEAM OFFICIAL MIGHT CONTACT EMBASSY OR CONSULAR OFFICIALS FOR LATEST ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN RHODESIA. IF CONTACTED, EMBOFFS SHOULD BE AS ACCURATE AS POSSIBLE IN DESCRIBING SITUATION, AND CLEARLY REITERATE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION THAT TRAVEL TO RHODESIA IS INADVISABLE. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Review Markings:**  
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